

Cap-Haïtien. February 22. 1841

My dear friend,

GARRISON
MSS.

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You will perhaps be surprised to hear from me at this distance from Boston. My husband's health was the cause of it primarily. We left home for his sake, & came here rather than any where else, for the sake of the cause. If we should find a republic of men of colour, all going on harmoniously in the path to ^{viti} civilization, it would we thought, subserve the cause of the slave in our own republic. We have been greatly gratified since our arrival here, by much that we have observed & find nothing which candour would not compel us to account ^{for} without supposing the blacks to be an inferior race to others. But much as I should delight to dwell on the particulars of our sojourn here - much as I could find it in my heart to impart to you in the way of confirmatory statistics which we have gathered, or in describing these blue & purple Mountains - these splendours & harmoniously aged seas, these ruins of a departed despotism - from which "each crumbling arch - each column lone" "pleads haughtily for glories gone -" Glowing as I might be disposed to be in description & dull in statistics, I am instilled by the accounts

I have just had from Boston, to turn to another subject. They sent me from thence an attested copy of our dear friend Collins' last letter, giving an account of the malignant attack of Colver upon himself & upon Garrison. We instantly seized our pens, & as we cannot, by reason of our absence, embody our testimony officially with that of the Boston Board, who will of course have written to the English friends in this, we hasten to write to you & such other friends as the shortness of the time will permit our addressing, in refutation & denial to such as have not personal knowledge enough of our beloved friend Collins to make them disbelieve the slander, & in expressions of astonishment & detestation to those who, from being acquainted with him, will feel strongly those emotions at such unexampled malignity.

What, I ask, could a single benevolent institution in England do, which should act upon the principle of Colver & his gang, (I can call them nothing better.) & exclude all who are not orthodox in the estimation of all the rest? Let it be procured to be enacted that any one sect or opinion should be excluded, & how soon would the malignant intolerance that procured it, plunge itself in the guilt of falsehood for the sake of convicting any obnoxious individual of the proscribed principles. The whole world irrespective of sect are united in favour of slavery. - hence its strength. What

Some have me of snuff in attacking it if we
reject any who would help us overthrow it because
they do not worship at the same church with our-
selves: This is the foundation principle - (this intolerance) on
which the pro-slavery doctors of divinity planted their engine
by whereby they prevailed upon the fearful, the doubtful,
the selfish & the headstrong, to forsake & deny their
brethren. These latter must, to sustain their position,
sink deeper & deeper in falsehood & cunning &
intrigue. Hence the conduct of Colver in writing to
England, as Collins informs us he did. "An Infidel con-
vention!" There has been no such held. The one Colver
alludes to, was eminently a christian one. Just
what this faithless age needed to awaken it to a
solemn sense of its material tendencies, & leanings
to image-worship. "Healed by Garrison!" He was in
England when it was projected, & did not even sign
the call for it, which was not worded as he would have
preferred. "Identified with it!" so then was Colver; for
he was present & took a part (and a very disgraceful
one his selfishness made it, to himself.) "His influence is
on the wane!" He was never so beloved & trusted. & that's the
thing that distresses Colver so much. "Affecting to see
what a company he had identified himself with!"
Mr Colver has not been long enough in Boston to
have learned to know by sight all the wealthy
(& consequently in his eyes respectable) religious &

fashionable persons who were present in great numbers at that convention, as well as abolitionists and individuals so unfortunate as to have been born (where the pilgrim fathers landed) on "Cape Cod." "Garrison has identified himself with the marriage people & is all in harmonious accord against the bible as the standard of Faith." I took notes of every instant of the whole three days, in order to be able to refute the malice which some would misrepresent. I quote the following from my notes, taken on the spot syllable for syllable at the opening of the convention.

"Mr Garrison (in reply to one who said he came to find truth - Mr Garrison had said we were here to examine the scriptures, but he was here to examine every source from whence information might be drawn respecting the Sabbath.) I speak only as an individual, but for myself, I have no disposition to argue these questions on any but the scriptural grounds. What do we know of the Sabbath but from the scriptures? I plant myself then on the Bible in this discussion."

For myself I hesitate not to declare that for sheer falsehood Colver has outdone himself this time. & that is saying all one can. I can imagine those to whom our friend Collins is unknown, wondering within themselves what "distressing circumstances" he left America under. I can only repeat

with Dr Parr, when some ~~some~~ wonderful
occurrence in Natural history was presented for
him to solve - "It is a lie, and that's the solution
of it." The only suspicion he was under was
the suspicion that Colver must continually have
been haunted by, that the daily beauty of Collins's
fidelity to the Anti Slavery cause, made his
treachery look ugly. And by it he is entitled
to the entire confidence of every abolitionist on
the globe; & the more entitled that he has the ill
will of such a man as Colver. I have written
to Harriet Martineau & to Thomas Sturge. The former
is my dear friend. To the latter I am personally
unknown. I enclose to you a letter for Collins.
If he has left, keep it & show such passages of
it as you choose or think likely to do good, to who
ever you choose. I must hasten to bid you
adieu unwilling as I am to close without dis-
cussing to you the delightful gathering of the friends
on the occasion of our annual Fair. Prejudice
against Colver there rec'd a wound that in our
part of the country it will never recover.

God bless you my dear friend, & strengthen
you for every good word & work.

Yours every such & more particularly
for the Freedom of the Slave
- Maria Weston Chapman.

For the Secretary of the Board of
Misses Weston Chapman.
I have the honor to acknowledge
your letter of the 10th inst. & in reply
to inform you that the same has been
forwarded to the proper authorities
for their consideration. I am, Sir,
very respectfully,
Yours,
Wm. Weston Chapman

Wm
Weston Chapman
Darlington

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